

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are pending in the application. Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Ichikawa (USP 6,526,940). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ichikawa discloses, in Fig. 1, a cylinder head having a first outlet 7, a second outlet 8, a first intake port 1 communicating with the first outlet 7, and a second intake port 2 communicating with the second outlet 8. The second intake port 2 (corresponds to the "first intake port" of the claimed invention of the present application) extends from the corresponding second outlet 8 in a direction generally perpendicular to a row direction of the cylinders. The first intake port 1 (corresponds to the "second intake port" of the claimed invention of the present application) has a middle section 15 that directs intake air to a flow direction of a swirl generated in the corresponding combustion chamber.

The first intake port 1 of Ichikawa, however, extends in the direction generally perpendicular to the row direction and does not extend along a direction generally parallel to the row direction." Accordingly, Ichikawa does not disclose or even suggest the "second intake port" as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichikawa in view of Okumura (USP 4,669,434). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

Moreover, Okumura discloses an intake port 7 (corresponds to the "second intake port" of the claimed invention of the present application) that extends substantially parallel to an intake port 6 (corresponds to the "first intake port" of the claimed invention of the present application), and thus does not extend "along a direction generally parallel to the row direction," as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Okumura does not even affect the patentability of claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claim 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichikawa in view of Yuzuriha (USP 5,676,107). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 7, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Moreover, as shown in Fig. 7, a front intake port 3 and a rear intake port 4 of Yuzuriha are arranged in a direction perpendicular to the row direction of the cylinders and the rear intake port 4 (corresponds to the "second intake port" of the claimed invention of the present application) extends substantially perpendicular to the row direction of the cylinders and does not extend "along a direction generally parallel to the row direction," as required in claim 1. Accordingly, Yuzuriha does not even affect the patentability of claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (Reg. No. 40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

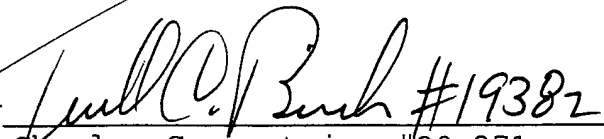
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

 #19382
Charles Gorenstein, #29,271

CG:MH/mh:pjh
0965-0421P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000